

## Strengthening Your FAITH

Are you struggling  
with your faith?



## Decisions

DOUBT

Taking a look at how  
our environment  
shapes our Decisions

BELIEVE

NO More  
Excuses

THE

FAITH FOR THE  
JOURNEY

BELIEF SYSTEM



**THE BELIEF SYSTEM**  
**By Elder Sabrina R. Penn, Editor and Chief**



What exactly is a belief system? Webster's Dictionary describes it as a set of principles held to be accurate by individual aspects such as morality, life purpose, or sound reality. The Greek word for believe is "pisteuo," which means to be convinced of, to place confidence in, or to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being) Christ. The belief system we as Christians live by is that there is only one God, and the divine Godhead consists of three parts: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV says, "*One body there is, and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism: one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*" Our belief system as a child of God should not be based on tradition, materialism, or religion; it should be based on our relationship with God. We should live strictly on the word of God by faith and not by the words of our intellect. What do you believe in now, and what are you believing God for in the upcoming year?

# Strengthening Your Faith AS 2024 UNFOLDS!



Article Written By: **Apostle Dr. Yolanda Powell**  
CEO of Impetus International and Yolanda Powell  
Transcontinental Ministry

*Are you struggling with your faith? Questioning your foundation? Wondering if your family is going to be okay?*

Since the pandemic of 2020, the entire world has been swept under a cloud of grey thoughts, heavy unknowns, and an uncertain future.

But I hear the Lord saying, “This is not unusual. Every generation must endure trial and tribulation according to My Word! Yet, it shall be well—if you only believe!” So, in this hour, we must not question God’s Word and wonder if He is in control. It is pivotal at this precise point in history that our belief system is stabilized despite what our sensory system is experiencing.

The “soul man” operates with five senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling. Therefore, he tries to rule over the “spirit man,” which operates exclusively by faith. The goal is to shift the Spirit-filled Believer into a sensory-based system instead of Spirit-led instruction.

Yet the Bible encourages us to “walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). The mature spirit does not move by human feeling but by divine communion and profound intimacy with The Living Word!

Proverbs 20:27 reinforces this point: “The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the

belly” (or the depths of our being). When we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will always arrive at our destined place with enormous victories to His honor and glory.

In this light, God our Father desires that we understand and believe His word and not tremble when environments and situations attempt to toss us around. A great example is when Peter was in a boat with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee. The Lord Himself is walking supernaturally upon the water. When Peter saw him, great faith and anticipation swept over him. So, he enthusiastically said, “Lord, if that’s you, bid me come on the water too (paraphrased). The Lord admires this kind of faith. He immediately stands still and tells Peter to “come” and join



Him. “And when Peter was coming down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus” (Matthew 14:29). What a powerful moment this must have been for this seasoned fisherman—who is soon to become a “fisher of men.”

Unfortunately for Peter and us, the environment can change suddenly and throw our “spirit walk” off. As soon as the winds began to rage, Peter grew fearful and sank. He frantically cried out to the Lord as his senses kicked in. Jesus immediately rescues Peter yet chides him openly, “What happened to your faith? Why did you doubt?”

We can all relate. Peter’s faith was solid and expectant as he focused on the Master and saw the power of the supernatural in operation. But it grew faint under extreme adversity and threatening peril. Within seconds, his senses began to scream danger, and his faith faded into the waves! How disappointing. I’ve been there many times and know how easy it is to forfeit strong faith when troubles rise.

Like Peter, God constantly beckons us to keep coming to Him—even amid horrific storms and boisterous winds. He wants our eyes to stay upon Him, our hearts to be focused on His Word, and our beliefs to be anchored in His promises.

In such moments, we can defy the odds and press into miraculous dimensions we never thought possible. Our love for Christ should produce such trust that builds faith and creates an ever-growing system of uncompromising belief—no matter what!

So, in this hour, as the world shakes with uncertainty and the church reels in unbelief, you and I must choose to believe in our Father and His Eternal Word! Hebrews 12:27 writes, “This *expression*, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken...so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” The following verse speaks powerfully of “receiving a Kingdom which cannot be shaken...” Now, that’s something into which we should deposit our faith!

This spiritual vault lies within an unshakable system and serves an Invisible God who sees and knows everything. Only tried and true faith can be sustained in the massive shaking taking place worldwide. Yet, we will not be overtaken by fault nor afraid of changing circumstances.

The old Saints used to sing, “*I will, I will, I will not be moved; I will, I will, I will not be moved, just like a tree planted by the waters, I will not be moved.*” This must be our song as well. No matter what occurs, we mustn’t be moved by what we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch.

The senses will confuse and sting us every time. But our sure foundation of faith and firm belief will always keep us safe. This can never be compromised—even under severe tests and trials. Ephesians 6:13 (AMP) is more vital in this hour than when it was first penned: “Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist *and* stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].

As we come to 2024, I am admonishing you as a believer in the Lord Jesus and the finished works of Christ to sure up your scriptural vault and expand your wealthy portfolio in the Word of Truth. Everything hinges on our trust, faith, and belief in the Way, Truth, and Life! We have nothing without these timeless jewels.

All of heaven is praying for you and believing in you. Rest assured that you will rise high and pass the test—that tries every generation!

May the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit empower you to stand and "walk confidently upon the waters." Nothing pleases the Lord more than faith. Indeed, He is calling your name and inviting you into supernatural realms of discovery and possibility in this new year.

Yes! The tests will come. The wind will blow. But you will emerge valiant by silencing the senses, defeating fears, conquering doubts, and gaining the crowns of life! Every small victory is preparing you for the Big Wins...So get out of the boat, defy the winds, and step boldly into the unknown with Christ. A time of great adventure is at your right hand.

# FAITH FOR THE JOURNEY

Article Written By **Prophetess Nicole Dias**  
Founder, Director, and CEO of Nicole Dias Ministries



*“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my father’s house, there are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself; that is where I am, you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? (John 14:1-31)”*

We think God is in complete and total control, ruling His creation. We hope and believe that is true. Even so, experience shows that, though we confess this, we sometimes, perhaps often, live and talk as the world does. Who will not think or live that way? Those who *live* by faith. How much faith is being displayed on earth today? Not very much! There is so tiny that Jesus wondered, "When the Son of man comes, will He find any faith on earth?" He will not find much because not many people think God is the Sovereign Ruler of His creation. It is that simple! They may think they believe it, but their lives do not show it.

The world's systems generate and sustain our government and politics, entertainment, fashion, religion, business ethics, medicine and health care, institutions, social programs, education, and use of power. The world's systems have formed many beliefs and attitudes, shaping our conduct. These are the things we must overcome. And this world and its systems are so appealing!

So be encouraged; Jesus has already overcome the world and even our faith.



# I BELIEVE



Written By: **Prophetess Robin Hubbard-Sherrod**  
CEO of Slack Not The Drive, Go Forward

Blessing's believers! What does it mean to believe? I'm glad you asked; according to the dictionary, it means to accept something as accurate and feel sure of the truth. This is also true according to the word of God. I like Romans 15:13, which says: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* This tells me, and I say to you, that if you trust God and believe in his word and promises, joy and peace shall be your portion. There is HOPE! Now is not the time to doubt God's plan for your life. Everything that God has promised shall come to pass. He is the God of HOPE. We trust God to provide and make provision for every need in our lives. God can not lie and will perform everything he has spoken over our lives. Philippians 1:16 NLT says: *And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day Christ Jesus returns.* There is still so much more yet to be done; BELIEVE!!!



# DECISIONS



Article Written By: **Dr. Venice L. McCoy, Ph.D.**  
CEO of Dr. V Ministries



A decision is defined as a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration.

I believe one of the primary words from God in this season is DECISIONS. I believe God is calling His people to a place where we must take a long look at our decisions. Our environment often influences our decisions. Our environment shapes our belief system. Our belief system influences our choices.

The quality of our lives is connected to our decisions. Our health: what we eat, sleep patterns, rest, vacation, exercise. Financial responsibility: income, outgo, budget, spending. Relationships: who we are connected to, how individuals influence our lives, how we affect the lives of others. Our decisions impact not only us but also those related to us.

I remember Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God's instructions regarding eating the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden. The serpent influenced Eve, and Adam was influenced by Eve. Their collective decision to engage in activity contrary to the word/instruction they had received from God impacted humanity for all of time. Their decision manifested death (Genesis 3:3) and alienated them from the plush life of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24).



I am reminded of Ruth, who made what some would consider a risky decision. I choose to call it a destiny decision. It would chart the remaining course of her life. She decided to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi, back home in Bethlehem. Amid Naomi's insistence for her to remain in Moab, Ruth had made up her mind: this is my decision, and nothing and no one will change it! (Ruth 1:7-22; 3:10-17) Upon arriving, she decided to go and glean in a field, eventually causing her to become the owner. Not only did Ruth make a good decision, but it was also made at the right time (Ruth 1:22).

I remember my decision to obey God to close the local church I was pastoring. God needed to relocate me and rebuild me. I did not realize how broken I was. He moved me to a state where I had no family or connections. There, in a small town many people have never heard of, God healed my brokenness: my broken spirit, my broken heart, my broken body, my broken finances, my broken credit, but above all, He healed my erratic *thinking*. God gave me a mental upgrade so that I would make decisions congruent with His word and His plan for my life (Jeremiah 29:11).

I believe God is calling us to revisit our decisions. I even set forth a challenge to you: reflect on the last decade of your life or at least the previous five years. Have you achieved your goals? Has your life advanced? Are you happy? Are you walking out your purpose on the earth? Who is being impacted (positively or negatively) by your decisions?

Remember, Decisions... are conclusions or resolutions reached after consideration!



# No More EXCUSES

**Apostle Dr. Trena Stephenson**  
**CEO of Women of God Ministries, Inc.**

As we enter this new year, get rid of the excuses. The Father is looking for you to produce. No more delays. No more procrastination. Do what he said for you to do. Many won't understand and will question your very movement and actions, but the Father asks, who do you seek to please them or me? The blessings that the Father will show you and the desires He wants to shower you with will only be released by your obedience to do what he called and told you to do. Remember, we all have a sphere of influence. Use the favor the Father is releasing to you wisely, and don't abuse it. The resources are monetarily used wisely. Don't look back on what could've happened and didn't happen. See it as the mercy of God being extended to you, protecting you from the wilds of the devil. Go forward knowing that victory is already yours. Seize every moment, opportunity, and door the Father extends to you. Remember, it's all about him and not about you. Go forth with wisdom and knowledge, stay ready, and continue to Soar.

# MEET OUR NEWEST!

# Member



**Prophetess Leah Simmons**

Prophetess Leah is genuinely a handmaiden of God called by the Lord Jesus in 1989 to teach and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. (San Diego, California)

Prophetess Leah returned to Chicago in 2004, where she was born and raised. There, she began understanding her life's prophetic and Apostolic graces as she submitted to her covering under her brother-in-law, Apostle Greg Jacobs Ministries, out of Chicago, Illinois. Prophetess Leah was ordained as a minister in 2006, serving as an Intercessor in several Apostolic ministries during her stay in her hometown.

Prophetess Leah gave birth to her first ministry, Under His Wings International Ministries (**UHWIM**), in 2006. Another ministry was born in 2021, the "Crown of Glory Women's Ministry (**COGWM**)," emphasizing the whole man's spirit, soul, and body. COGWM is under UHWIM. They are both virtual ministries equipping, training, teaching, empowering, mentoring, and coaching through

various platforms and outlets to bring healing and deliverance to God's people. (Ephesians 4:12; Isaiah 63:3)

During the Pandemic 2020-2022, Prophetess Leah partnered with Mantle Network under Apostle Joshua Giles, Minnesota, Missouri. She continued her training and equipping to understand the Prophet Mantle through teaching and training in the school of the Prophet.

Prophetess Leah is currently under mentorship with The Junia Company with Apostle Dr. Yolanda Powell, Washington DC, unlocking gifts, graces, and greatness she has yet to step into.

Prophetess Leah's "Under His Wings International Ministries" is under the network and leadership covering of Apostle Dr. Trena Stephenson and its Executive Board – Woman of God Ministries, Inc.

Prophetess Leah's primary function is as an Intercessor with a Prophet Mantle, along with various giftings and graces flowing from that place. She is the Author of several books; one is an Amazon best-seller; she's a mom to three beautiful adult children and grandma and nana to her precious grandchildren, who bring much joy. Prophetess Leah has since returned to Southern California, where all her children reside.

Prophetess Leah is a woman after God's heart; she loves serving God's people, loves what God loves, and hates what God hates. She's a woman of authority and under authority.

**WE WELCOME YOU, PROPHETESS LEAH SIMMONS**





### **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

Thank you all for your contribution to this Newsletter. Your revelations of what God has placed inside of you to share with our readers are impactful, encouraging, and certainly a blessing to all who will read these articles. I pray that you have unprecedented favor upon your life; great health, enormous wealth, and riches for your household.

*“The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you,” 2 Corinthians 13:14 (Message Bible)*